

HQ U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region



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PRESS RELEASE

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Free summer camps come to Europe:

Operation Purple Camp for deployed servicemembers' family members

Heidelberg, Germany -- Children of deployed service members will have the opportunity to go to camp this summer here in Europe.

Operation Purple Camp Italia in Camp Darby, Italy and Camp Bavaria in Garmisch will provide middle and high school students with weeklong and all-expense-paid camp incorporating activities specifically related to coping with deployments.

In 2004, the National Military Family Association, in partnership with Sears' American Dream Campaign, created a camp program for military youth experiencing deployment of one or both parents. Installation Management Agency-Europe's Morale Welfare and Recreation Division expanded the Operation Purple Camp program to military youth who live in Europe. These camps are specially designed for youth whose parents are currently deployed, are preparing to deploy, or have recently returned from deployment.

Operation Purple Camp, now in its second year, hosted nearly 1,000 children during the 12 stateside camps last year. The camps are open to children whose parents serve in any branch of service; hence the name Operation Purple Camp.

Each camp will feature team building, recreational and leisure activities, creative art projects, a motivational speaker, forums for emotional awareness and self-expression, and more. Operation Purple Camp Italia and Camp Bavaria are designed to strengthen resiliency and coping skills through healthy social relationships.

Operation Purple Camp Italia is for middle school youth (grades six to eight), hosting one session on July 17 to 23 and another session July 24 to 30 both at Camp Darby, Italy. Operation Purple Camp Bavaria is for high school youth (grades nine to 12) with one session Aug. 21 to 27 and another Aug. 28 to Sept. 3, both in Garmisch, Germany.

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Camp

Applications are available at local youth centers, and Army Community Service. They must be submitted by May 15, and starting April 15, can be mailed (USA IMA-E/ATTN: IMEU-MWD-C/ Unit 29353, Box 200/ APO AE 09014), e-mailed (purple@ima-e.army.mil) or faxed (DSN 370-8491, comm. 06221-57-8491).

Spaces are limited. Applicants will be prioritized based on the sponsor's deployment status and then by date of receipt of the application. Priority is given to children of currently deployed servicemembers, followed by returned servicemembers' children and finally children of servicemembers pending deployment. Selections will be made before the end of the DoDDS-E school year.

For more details and application forms, visit www.mwr-europe.com or call IMA-Europe MWR Child and Youth Services at DSN 370-7486, commercial 06221-57-7486.

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from drivers licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.